

scattered sources, and the wonder is that the need for such a book in agricultural colleges was not met several years ago.

C. STUART GAGER.

**Weaver's Study of the Vegetation of Southeastern Washington and Adjacent Idaho; and Ecological Studies in the Tension Zone between Prairie and Woodland, by Weaver and Thiel**

After thirteen years of quiescence, a notable series of publications of the Botanical Seminar of the University of Nebraska has been revived by a new generation of ecologists and phytogeographers. The second paper noted above is number one of the new series of "Botanical Survey of Nebraska," the last of the old series being published in 1900 as the second edition of "Phytogeography of Nebraska I," originally issued in 1898.

Considering the last paper first, the authors show that in the tension zone between forest and prairie the lack of available water and high transpiration on the latter explains the failure of the trees to encroach seriously over the prairies, except in gullies and other favorable places where there is water. A system of records showing available water supply and transpiration, and the reflection of these factors in the vegetation itself, are described in detail, the whole paper covering 60 pages, with numerous pictures, tables and graphs to illustrate the points discussed. In this connection some of the conclusions of Gleason, Harper, Shimek and others should be studied by those who may not be inclined to ascribe as much importance to water as the authors of the paper under discussion evidently do. They make scarcely any mention of fire as a factor, whereas some writers consider it almost *the* factor. They promise, however, to carry out a series of "carefully planned quadrat studies" to answer the question "Can trees grow from seed sown in the prairie or worked into the surface soil and under what conditions?"

The other paper by Dr. Weaver is a pamphlet of 133 pages and 48 illustrations, and is a systematic description of the vegetation of southeastern Washington and eastern Idaho. That such a region contains vegetation described under prairie-plains formation, desert-scrub formation, Pacific coast forest formation, Hydrosere, etc., bears out the author's statement that the area

is of unique interest to the ecologically minded. Except taxonomic publications, there has been practically nothing written about this area, so that Dr. Weaver's article is doubly welcome.

In both of the papers many terms sanctioned by Professor Clements in "Plant Succession" are freely used and of course the concept of a plant association as an organism is adhered to, even in such a paper as the one by the senior author which is chiefly descriptive.

N. T.

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

JANUARY 9, 1917\*

The annual meeting was held in the American Museum of Natural History, Tuesday, January 9, 1917, at 8:15 P.M. President Harper presided. Nineteen persons were present.

The minutes of the meetings held November 29 and December 12 were read and approved.

The chairman of the standing committees for the year presented brief reports. Dr. Barnhart for the finance committee; Mrs. Britton for the program committee; Percy Wilson, field committee; Dr. Britton, local flora; Mrs. Britton, Cryptogams. These reports were accepted with approval.

The reports of the officers of the Club were then presented. President Harper spoke of the growing condition of the Club and urged increased activity on the part of the younger members especially.

The secretary's report was read and accepted.

The report of the treasurer was referred to an auditing committee consisting of Dr. J. H. Barnhart and Dr. M. A. Howe.

The report of the editor, Dr. A. W. Evans, was read by the secretary and ordered placed on file.

Dr. J. H. Barnhart, delegate to the Council of the New York Academy of Sciences, submitted a report, which was accepted.

Under the head of new business the question relating to the financial condition of the Club as indicated by the treasurer's report was considered.

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